

News of the arts

Seven musicals at Charlottetown

A new musical entitled *Aimee*, based on the life of controversial Canadian-born evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson, will be one of seven Canadian musicals at the Charlottetown Festival this coming season.



Scene from *Anne of Green Gables*.

William J. Hancox, executive director of Confederation Centre of the Arts, and Gary Craswell, acting producer of the 1981 festival, recently unveiled plans for the festival's 15-week season.

This year's lineup of musicals includes the perennial favourite, *Anne of Green Gables*, opening June 26; *Fauntleroy*, a rags-to-riches story, opening June 29; the world premiere of *Aimee* on July 3, and a five-day, main-stage September run of *Billy Bishop Goes to War*, recently shown in New York after a successful Canadian tour and soon to open in London's West End.

The festival opens earlier than ever, on June 17, with one of two Cameo Cabaret one-man revues, *Miss Lillie*, based on the life of Canadian-born comedian Beatrice Lillie, or one starring Rudy Webb. The seventh musical is the children's production, *The Three Bears*, starring members of the Charlottetown Festival Company.

Quebec novelist wins prize

Quebec writer Claude Jasmin was recently presented with the 1980 France-Canada prize for his novel *La Sablière*.

The prize, awarded annually to a French-speaking Canadian writer, is accompanied by \$1,500 in cash — \$500 from the Quebec government and \$1,000 from the City of Paris.

Canada Council gets funding

The federal government is giving the Canadian arts community a boost with an increase of \$3 million in the Canada Council's budget for 1981-82.

For the first time the government's grant to the Council will exceed \$50 million said Communications Minister Francis Fox in announcing the funding. It represents an increase of 18 per cent over the 1980-81 grant.

In addition to the \$52.9 million to be voted by Parliament, the Canada Council receives revenues of more than \$7 million

from interest and dividends from its endowment account. The \$3-million grant is a supplement to the main grant of \$49.9 million contained in the government's main estimates for 1981-82.

The \$3 million is expected to enable the Council to respond to increased participation in the arts and to assist it in offsetting the effects of inflation.

The Canada Council funds a number of individuals and organizations active in the performing arts, visual arts, writing and publishing. For more than 20 years, the Council has played a major role in the development and support of the arts.

Canadian graphic arts on display at National Gallery



A partial view of Mont-Saint-Michel by Clarence Gagnon.

An exhibition providing an historic overview of Canadian prints, *Canada in the Graphic Arts: 1556-1963* recently went on view at the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa.

Eighty-one prints have been selected from the two most important print collections in Canada, those of the National Gallery of Canada and the Public Archives of Canada.

The earliest prints in the exhibition, from the collection of the Public Archives of Canada, are *La Terra de Hochelaga Nell Nova Francia* published by the Venetian Giovanni Ramusio in 1556; two prints

by Richard Short published in 1761; and two etchings by James Peachey, possibly the first prints made in Canada, printed in 1783. Among examples from the collection of the National Gallery are Homer Watson's etching *The Pioneer Mill*, 1889, and prints by Clarence Gagnon, Edwin Holgate, L.L. Fitzgerald, J.E.H. MacDonald, David Milne and Albert Dumouchel.

This exhibition, which will run until June 14, is planned to coincide with the annual meeting of the Print Council of America which is being held in Ottawa this month.